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SOLID GOLD KENTUCKY DERBY WINNER'S TROPHY ARRIVES AT CHURCHILL DOWNS

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (Wednesday, April 5, 2017) – The coveted solid gold 2017 Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy has arrived at **Churchill Downs Racetrack** and now awaits its formal presentation to the owner of the 3-year-old Thoroughbred that is victorious in the 143rd running of the **Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands** (Grade I) on Saturday, May 6.

The 14-karat gold trophy – a prize that is deemed “priceless” by the historic racetrack that presents it and the owners, trainers and jockeys who pursue it – will have a secure home in the Kentucky Derby Museum, located adjacent to the racetrack, until the running of the Derby. The prize will make a round of public appearances prior to the running of the Kentucky Derby, after which it will be presented to the owner of the 3-year-old Thoroughbred that wins the famed race known as the “Run for the Roses.”

The 2017 Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy and three smaller sterling silver replica trophies that go to trainer, jockey and breeder of this year's winner were delivered to Churchill Downs on Wednesday by representatives of **S. R. Blackinton**, the Smithfield, R.I. company that annually crafts the coveted prize. President/Designer **Susanne Blackinton-Juaire** and her husband, **Bill Juaire**, represented their company's artisans as they traveled to Kentucky to deliver this year's trophy.

Susanne Blackinton-Juaire is a fifth-generation silversmith whose family entered the profession in 1862 – 12 years before the first Kentucky Derby was run in 1875 at the track originally known as the Louisville Jockey Club. The company's artisans have crafted each Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy since 1975.

“It is a thrill each year for the members of our team that craft the Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy, and also a very emotional experience,” Blackinton-Juaire said. “Each individual connected to this coveted trophy takes great care and pride throughout the five-month process during which each year's trophy is crafted. We're sad to see it leave each spring for its journey to Churchill Downs, but it is exhilarating for each of us when we witness the joyful moment on the first Saturday in May when this wonderful trophy is presented to the owner of the Kentucky Derby winner.”

The current design of the Kentucky Derby Winner's Trophy was commissioned by legendary Churchill Downs President **Col. Matt Winn** in 1924 for that year's 50th, or Golden Anniversary, running of the Kentucky Derby.

The trophy – a cup fashioned from 14-karat gold and green gold – stands 22 inches tall and weighs approximately 65 ounces, excluding its jade base. It is topped by a 14-karat gold horse and rider and features a pair of horseshoe-shaped wreath handles. The gold cup is adorned by a 14-karat gold horseshoe that, in accordance with Thoroughbred racing tradition, points upward. Racing legend holds that the “luck will run out” of a horseshoe that points downward.

The trophy's design took on added features for the 75th (1949), 100th (1974) and 125th (1999) renewals of the Kentucky Derby. Each of those trophies included a mantle of “roses” fashioned from rubies and emeralds, along with a horseshoe filled with diamonds. Similar additions are planned for the trophy of the 150th running of the Kentucky Derby in 2024.

Churchill Downs has presented America's greatest race, the Kentucky Derby, continuously since 1875. Located in Louisville, the flagship racetrack of Churchill Downs Incorporated (NASDAQ: CHDN) offers year-round simulcast wagering at the historic track. Churchill Downs will conduct the 143rd running of the Kentucky Derby Presented by Yum! Brands on May 6, 2017. The track's 2017 Spring Meet is scheduled for April 29-June 30. Churchill Downs has hosted the Breeders' Cup World Championships eight times and the event will return to the track on Nov. 2-3, 2018. Information is available at www.ChurchillDowns.com.

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